

Policy Bulletin

November 2019

November 5, 2019

Request for Member Feedback

SARM is researching how much the federal carbon tax is costing rural municipalities. We hope to paint a fuller picture of how the carbon tax is affecting municipal operations and budgets.

Last month, how much did your municipality pay in carbon tax for:

- Electricity
- Natural Gas (Heating)
- Fuel

If you are able to provide the above information on the carbon tax your municipality is paying, please send the information to Libbey Morin lmorin@sarm.ca

INFORMATION: Snow Removal Exemption

Please view the current exemption for RM residents who do snow removal for the RM. This exemption form is to take the place of the exemption that expired November 30, 2019. This exemption is in effect until November 30, 2022. The checklist will ensure that specific conditions of the exemption are being met. This checklist is not mandatory, but is simply meant to help you ensure that you are not in violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

[Snow Removal Checklist](#)

[Snow Removal Exemption Letter](#)

INFORMATION: Public Review – Forest Inventory Chapter – Saskatchewan Environmental Code

The Ministry of Environment and the Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee are seeking your feedback on a proposed new Forest Inventory Chapter for inclusion in the Saskatchewan Environmental Code.

Over the past year, the ministry has been working with the Code Advisory Committee and the Forestry Content Committee on this new initiative, which will govern forest inventories created in preparation of forest management plans, pursuant to *The Forest Resources Management Act*.

The Forest Inventory Chapter will establish an updated and efficient inventory approach for Saskatchewan that is responsive to new and evolving technologies. The existing Saskatchewan Forest Vegetation Inventory Standard and associated audit protocols have been incorporated into the new inventory standard.

More detailed information about the proposed new chapter is available [here](#).

Please submit your written comments no later than December 16, 2019 to envcode@gov.sk.ca.

The ministry, in consultation with the Forestry Content Committee, will review the responses and

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report back on what we heard. This report will be emailed to stakeholders and posted on the Government of Saskatchewan website in early 2020.

INFORMATION: Future Cannabis Retailing in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan will move forward with a phased-in open market system when allocating future cannabis retail permits.

Beginning in April 2020, SLGA will accept applications for cannabis retail permits in Saskatchewan communities with populations less than 2,500. In September 2020, SLGA will begin accepting permit applications for stores in all communities in the province.

Government of Saskatchewan News Release

INFORMATION: SARM Meetings

This week SARM President Ray Orb and SARM staff, representatives from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan School Board Association met with Minister of Justice, Don Morgan to discuss proposed prompt payment legislation.

INFORMATION: Starting the Asset Management Conversation

FCM has a ready-to-use presentation that explains asset management and its benefits, and outlines how your municipality can take action. You can adapt the presentation to suit your preferences and the needs of your community.

View presentation

INFORMATION: Energy Code Workshops

The National Energy Code for Buildings 2017 (NECB 2017) and the National Building Code 2015 (NBC 2015) Section 9.36. have been in effect since January 1, 2019. The Building Standards and Licensing Branch will be hosting half-day workshops in Regina on November 26 or Saskatoon on December 3.

The workshops include: an overview of NECB 2017 requirements for building envelope; lighting; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; service water systems and electrical power systems; and an overview of the NBC 2015 Section 9.36. requirements for building envelope, HVAC systems, and service water systems.

There is no charge for the workshops and space is limited. The registration deadline is November 15.

More info and registration.

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INFORMATION: Land Access Web App - Testing Stage

A new application, SaskLander, is intended to help members of the public to get permission from rural property owners before entering their land. SaskLander was developed through the government's Innovation Challenge program, where Innovation Saskatchewan crowd-sources ideas from local innovators to resolve challenges or capture opportunities for citizens.

The initial idea for SaskLander was further developed through a 16-week residency with SARM and Innovation Saskatchewan. The residency gave Western Heritage the opportunity to connect with various government ministries and organizations to identify and work through potential challenges during prototype development.

SaskLander is moving into early stage pilot testing in the RM of Shellbrook. The pilot project is expected to wrap up before the end of 2020.

More information

INFORMATION: Canadian Network of Asset Managers

CNAM is offering an online workshop appropriate for elected officials, municipal and organizational staff who want to have a better understanding of:

- What asset management is
- Why it should be undertaken and its benefits to your community
- Tangible steps to begin implementation

Session A - Intro to AM and Benefits
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
9am to 12.30pm PST / 12pm to 3.30pm EST

Session B - How to get started
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
9am to 12.30pm PST / 12pm to 3.30pm EST

More information and to register

INFORMATION: Ombudsman Information for Municipalities - Conflict of Interest

Ombudsman Saskatchewan is an oversight body that promotes and protects fairness and integrity in the design and delivery of government services. They take complaints about provincial government ministries, agencies, Crown corporations and many health entities as well as municipal entities. Because Ombudsman Saskatchewan is an oversight body and has the jurisdiction to investigate municipalities, they are unable to provide guidance to council members about whether they may be in a conflict of interest. Ombudsman Saskatchewan does, however, maintain online resources for municipalities and councils including tools to help determine what a conflict of interest is:

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- [Conflict of Interest Checklist](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Brochure](#)

INFORMATION: FCM – Funding for Environmental Projects

FCM offers funding for signature initiatives to reduce risk for municipalities and their partners while they implement transformative, best-in-class environmental projects that reduce GHG emissions and protect the air, water and land.

[Learn more here](#)

INFORMATION: FCM Webinar – How Canadian Municipalities can use data to address climate change vulnerabilities

Sign up for a free webinar on November 15 or 26, to learn how five communities across Canada improved their data collection methods to better support water infrastructure planning. The webinar will share information on how communities identified risks and better protected their assets from climate-related damage, such as flooding.

[Register](#)

INFORMATION: Asset Management Workshops – Reminder

Asset Management Saskatchewan is offering a three part series of one hour webinars that will focus on key areas of the asset management journey:

The Building Blocks of the Asset Management Process - Webinar series

Cost: Free

November 18, 2019: Level of Service

November 20, 2019: Risk

November 25, 2019: Long term Financial Planning

[Register today](#)

November 19, 2019

INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network

The Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network enables residents to receive reliable information about crime happening in their area directly from the RCMP. Through the network, the RCMP and its partner agencies have the ability to communicate directly with the public on matters of crime prevention and community safety. Residents can sign up to receive crime watch advisories from their local detachments by text message, email, or phone.

Sign up at www.saskcrimewatch.ca

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INFORMATION: Winter Weight Taking Effect Soon

Restrictions on the winter weights can be in effect from November 16 to 30 and also from March 1 to 14. When temperatures rise and roadbeds remain soft, the ministry may remove winter weights in some areas. Road status can be checked at www.saskatchewan.ca/truckingweights.

To find the latest road restriction orders online, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline, follow us on Twitter @SkGovHwyHotline and look for #skweights or call the Hotline at 511.

For technical and regulatory information, commercial carriers can contact the Inquiry Line weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-866-933-5290 in Saskatchewan or 306-933-5290 outside the province.

INFORMATION: WCB Coverage Expanded for Firefighters

Starting November 15, professional and volunteer firefighters will be able to access Workers' Compensation coverage for six additional cancers. In addition, an amendment will come into force to enable Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) claimants to access their entire claim file.

The amendments, which were announced last December added six cancers to the list of occupational diseases with presumptive coverage for firefighters. 'Presumptive coverage' means that if a firefighter is diagnosed with a disease, it is presumed the disease is related to their work. With this amendment, Saskatchewan now has presumptive coverage for 15 forms of cancer for firefighters as well as heart injury.

INFORMATION: Saskatchewan's Growth Plan

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030 was released on November 14th. The new Growth Plan includes 30 goals for 2030 including key targets of a population of 1.4 million people, 100,000 new jobs, increasing exports by 50 per cent and increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

More information can be found [here](#)

INFORMATION: Grain Expo – Agribition

As part of SaskPower's sponsorship of the Grain Expo at Agribition, members are invited to attend the event free of charge by registering through the link attached to the invitation. The Grain Expo will include industry speakers, a trade show and a casual reception.

Invitation and Registration

INFORMATION: *The Animal Health Act*

As On November 15th, the Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed new legislation to help protect the health and welfare of the province's animals. The new *Animal Health Act* repeals and replaces *The Diseases of Animals Act*. The Act expands the definition of "disease" to include non-infectious threats such as toxins and emerging issues, including antimicrobial resistance. The

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Act clearly sets out a veterinary inspector's authorities and responsibilities with regard to entering and inspecting a premises, establishing quarantines, disease surveillance and control zones, and euthanizing animals to prevent suffering or the spread of disease. More information can be found [here](#)

INFORMATION: Midterm Convention Resolutions

Resolutions from the 2019 Midterm Convention can now be found on the SARM [website](#).

INFORMATION: Last Chance to Apply for Landfill Closure Funding

The funding program designed to support municipalities conducting Environmental Site Assessments for closed or closing landfills is accepting applications until November 29.

The Landfill Environmental Site Assessment (LESA) Program, a partnership between SUMA and the Ministry of Environment, is accepting applications from urban, rural, and northern municipalities in Saskatchewan who have applied to the Ministry's Environmental Protection Branch to close their municipal landfill.

Check out the guidelines and apply today

[LESA Guidelines](#)
[Application](#)

November 26, 2019

INFORMATION: Carbon Tax on Fuel for Drying Grain

The difficult harvest this fall has further demonstrated the negative impact of the carbon tax on farmers. To support our federal lobby efforts, SARM is asking farmers to share information about how much carbon tax they've had to pay for drying grain. If you have any farmers on council or in your community that would like to help us out by sharing their invoice amounts, please send the information to [Libbey Morin](#).

INFORMATION: Midterm Convention

SARM's 2019 Midterm Convention took place in Regina, November 13 & 14th. You can access material from the break-out sessions as well as the Monday Bridge Summit [here](#).

INFORMATION: The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019

The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019 was introduced on November 19, 2019. It outlines legislative adjustments to meet the current needs of municipalities and their citizens.

Key amendments to The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 have been made regarding ministerial authority and local governance and accountability. The SARM Board will be reviewing the amendments closely.

More information can be found [here](#).

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INFORMATION: WCMA Budget Submissions

The Western Canadian Municipal Associations (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Association of Manitoba Municipalities) submitted a joint budget request to the federal government that outlines priorities for Western Canadian municipalities. The submission can be found on SARM's website under [**Submissions**](#).

INFORMATION: FCM Sustainable Communities Awards

The awards recognize Canada's most innovative local sustainability projects in nine different categories: asset management, brownfields, climate change, energy, neighbourhoods, transportation, waste, water, and the GMF 20th Anniversary Visionary Award. Canadian cities and communities of all sizes are eligible to apply.

As an award winner, you'll receive local and national recognition and promotion for your initiative. Winners will be honoured and have the opportunity to present at FCM's 2020 Sustainable Communities Conference taking place October 20-22 in St. John's, NL.

[**Learn more**](#) and apply by March 31, 2020.

Sign up for the webinar and get started on your application

Want to apply but don't know where to start? Join FCM's webinar on December 3, 2019, at 1:00 pm-2:00 pm EST, to learn everything you need to know about applying to the 2020 Awards program. [**Sign up today**](#)